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1771  
Atty. Dkt. No. 016782-0235

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Ludo ADRIAENSEN, et al.

Title: CANVASSES REINFORCED  
WITH METAL MEMBERS

Appl. No.: 09/890,408

Filing Date: 09/26/2001

Examiner: L. Salvatore

Art Unit: 1771

**RECEIVED**

**FEB 27 2004**

**REQUEST TO RESCIND ABANDONMENT OF APPLICATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of the Notice of Abandonment dated February 12, 2004 (copy enclosed), for failure to respond to the Office Action dated June 23, 2003 in the subject application. As set forth below, Applicants submit that the Notice of Abandonment has been issued in error.

Please find attached copies of the following:

- 1) A copy of an Amendment filed September 23, 2003.
- 2) A copy of a post card stamped in receipt by the PTO on September 23, 2003.
- 3) A copy of a Letter dated February 5, 2004 with copies of the papers filed September 23, 2003 attached.
- 4) A copy of the Notice of Abandonment.

The PTO is advised that aforementioned document (no. 4) was timely filed in the PTO on September 23, 2003, as evidenced by the attached postcard bearing the Office date

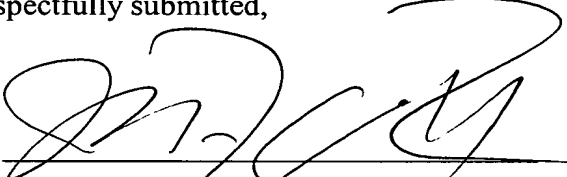
stamp thereon (document no. 2). Further, a copy of aforementioned documents nos. 1 and 2 was re-submitted to the PTO on February 5, 2004, along with document no. 3.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants request that abandonment be rescinded and the application examined.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

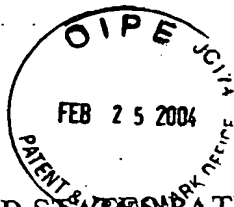
Respectfully submitted,

Date Feb 25, 2004

By 

FOLEY & LARDNER  
Washington Harbour  
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 500  
Washington, D.C. 20007-5143  
Telephone: (202) 295-4747  
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Martin J. Cosenza  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 48,892



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ludo ADRIAENSEN, et al.

Title: CANVASSES REINFORCED WITH METAL MEMBERS

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Examiner: L. Salvatore

Art Unit: 1771

LETTER

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FEB 27 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to a telephone interview between Examiner Salvatore and the undersigned wherein the Examiner stated that the Response to the Office Action dated June 23, 2003 had not been received, enclosed is a copy of an Amendment and Reply filed in the U.S. Patent Office on September 23, 2003. Also enclosed is a copy of the return postcard which accompanied the filed documents stamped in receipt by the U.S. Patent Office.

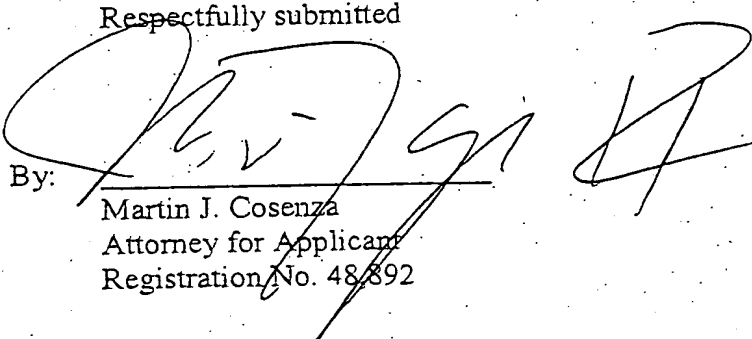
If Examiner Salvatore has any questions she may contact the Attorney of Record at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted

Date:

Feb 05, 2004

By:

  
Martin J. Cosenza  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 48,892

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COPY



Title: CANVASSES REINFORCED WITH METAL MEMBERS  
Inventor(s): Ludo ADRIAENSEN, et al. Dkt. No. 016782-0235  
Appl. No.: 09/890,408  
Filed: 9/26/2001

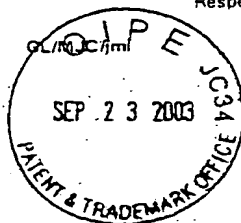
X Amendment and Reply (11 pp)

Commissioner for Patents:

Please acknowledge receipt of the above-identified documents by applying the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office receipt stamp hereto and mailing this card.

Respectfully,  
Foley & Lardner

DATE DUE: September 23 2003



jm

(5)

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FEB 27 2004

Jean Mc.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

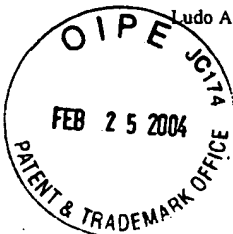
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
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www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/890,408	09/26/2001	Ludo Adriaensen	016782-0235	1783

7590

02/12/2004

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EXAMINER

SALVATORE, LYNDIA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1771

DATE MAILED: 02/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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FEB 27 2004

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FEB 25 2004

**Notice of Abandonment**

Application No.

09/890,408

Examiner

Lynda M Salvatore

Applicant(s)

ADRIAENSEN ET AL.

Art Unit

1771

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

**RECEIVED**

This application is abandoned in view of:

1. ☒ Applicant's failure to timely file a proper reply to the Office letter mailed on 23 June 2003. **FEB 27 2004**
  - (a) ☐ A reply was received on \_\_\_\_\_ (with a Certificate of Mailing or Transmission dated \_\_\_\_\_), which is after the expiration of the period for reply (including a total extension of time of \_\_\_\_\_ month(s)) which expired on \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ A proposed reply was received on \_\_\_\_\_, but it does not constitute a proper reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (a) to the final rejection.  
(A proper reply under 37 CFR 1.113 to a final rejection consists only of: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114).
  - (c) ☐ A reply was received on \_\_\_\_\_ but it does not constitute a proper reply, or a bona fide attempt at a proper reply, to the non-final rejection. See 37 CFR 1.85(a) and 1.111. (See explanation in box 7 below).
  - (d) ☒ No reply has been received.
2. ☐ Applicant's failure to timely pay the required issue fee and publication fee, if applicable, within the statutory period of three months from the mailing date of the Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85).
  - (a) ☐ The issue fee and publication fee, if applicable, was received on \_\_\_\_\_ (with a Certificate of Mailing or Transmission dated \_\_\_\_\_), which is after the expiration of the statutory period for payment of the issue fee (and publication fee) set in the Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85).
  - (b) ☐ The submitted fee of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is insufficient. A balance of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is due.  
The issue fee required by 37 CFR 1.18 is \$\_\_\_\_\_. The publication fee, if required by 37 CFR 1.18(d), is \$\_\_\_\_\_.
  - (c) ☐ The issue fee and publication fee, if applicable, has not been received.
3. ☐ Applicant's failure to timely file corrected drawings as required by, and within the three-month period set in, the Notice of Allowability (PTO-37).
  - (a) ☐ Proposed corrected drawings were received on \_\_\_\_\_ (with a Certificate of Mailing or Transmission dated \_\_\_\_\_), which is after the expiration of the period for reply.
  - (b) ☐ No corrected drawings have been received.
4. ☐ The letter of express abandonment which is signed by the attorney or agent of record, the assignee of the entire interest, or all of the applicants.
5. ☐ The letter of express abandonment which is signed by an attorney or agent (acting in a representative capacity under 37 CFR 1.34(a)) upon the filing of a continuing application.
6. ☐ The decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interference rendered on \_\_\_\_\_ and because the period for seeking court review of the decision has expired and there are no allowed claims.
7. ☐ The reason(s) below:



TERREL MORRIS  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

Petitions to revive under 37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b), or requests to withdraw the holding of abandonment under 37 CFR 1.181, should be promptly filed to minimize any negative effects on patent term.



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ludo ADRIAENSEN, et al.

Title: CANVASSES REINFORCED  
WITH METAL MEMBERS

Appl. No.: 09/890,408

Filing Date: 09/26/2001

Examiner: L. Salvatore

Art Unit: 1771

AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

Mail Stop NON-FEE AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action dated June 2003, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

Please amend the application as follows:

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FEB 27 2004

COPY



This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A strip (~~16~~) for reinforcement of canvasses having a plastic coating, wherein said strip comprises at least one elongated metal member (~~18~~) and a matrix of a thermoplastic material, (~~22~~) said thermoplastic material being extruded on said elongated metal member and said thermoplastic material being adherable to said plastic coating of said canvas, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said elongated metal member ~~has been~~ is coated with a primer layer (~~20~~) ~~before and~~ and said thermoplastic material is extruded on the coated metal member, ~~to realize an and wherein adhesion between~~ said thermoplastic material ~~and~~ adheres to said elongated metal member.
2. (Currently Amended) A strip according to claim 1, ~~whereby~~ wherein said primer layer comprises a thermosetting material.
3. (Currently Amended) A strip according to claim 2, ~~whereby~~ wherein said thermosetting material is selected from the group consisting of acrylate based resins, epoxy based resins or alkyd based resins.
4. (Currently Amended) A strip according to claim 1, ~~whereby~~ wherein said primer layer comprises a hot melt.
5. (Currently Amended) A strip according to claim 4, ~~whereby~~ wherein said hot melt is selected from the group consisting of ethylene copolymers, polyamides or polyesters.
6. (Currently Amended) A strip according to claim 1, ~~whereby~~ wherein said primer layer comprises a bifunctional silane compound.
7. (Currently Amended) A strip according to claim 1, ~~whereby~~ wherein said thermoplastic material is polyvinylchloride.

8. (Currently Amended) A strip according to claim 1, ~~whereby~~ wherein said thermoplastic material is a polyvinylchloride compound.
9. (Currently Amended) A strip according to claim 1, ~~whereby~~ wherein said metal member is a flat wire with a tensile strength greater than  $1500 \text{ N/mm}^2$ .
10. (Currently Amended) A strip according to claim 1, ~~whereby~~ wherein said metal member is a flat wire with a tensile strength greater than  $1700 \text{ N/mm}^2$ .
11. (Currently Amended) A strip according to claim 1, ~~whereby~~ wherein said metal member is a flat wire with a thickness of less than 0.35 mm.
12. (Currently Amended) A strip according to claim 1, ~~whereby~~ wherein said metal member is a wire with a rounded I-profile.
13. (Currently Amended) A strip according to claim 1, ~~whereby~~ wherein said metal member is a steel wire with a carbon content of at least 0.40%.
14. (Currently Amended) A strip according to claim 1, ~~whereby~~ wherein said metal member comprises at least two metal members.
15. (Currently Amended) A strip according to claim 14, ~~whereby~~ wherein the metal members are located parallel in the plane of the strip, each metal member being in contact with at least one other metal member.
16. (Previously Presented) A strip according to claim 1, ~~whereby~~ wherein the metal member is coated with a zinc layer or with a zinc alloy layer.

17. (Currently Amended) A fabric (10) for reinforcement of canvasses having a plastic coating, said fabric comprising a warp (12) and a weft (14), at least one of the warp or the weft being formed by a strip according to claim 1.
18. (Currently Amended) A fabric according to claim 1, ~~whereby~~ wherein both the warp and the weft are formed by said strip.
19. (Currently Amended) Use of a strip according to claim 1, for reinforcement of a canvass.
20. (Previously Presented ) Use of a fabric according to claim 17 for reinforcement of a canvass.

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on June 23, 2003, has been reviewed and the comments of the Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Prior to this paper, claims 1-20 were pending in the present application. By this paper, Applicants do not cancel or add any claims. Therefore, claims 1-20 remain pending in the present application.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance for the reasons that follow.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Office Action identified the use of the phrase "to realize" as unclear. As seen above, claim 1 has been amended, and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

Regarding claim 4, the Office Action did not cite a reason for rejecting this claim under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Thus, Applicants assume that this rejection is in error, and respectfully request reconsideration. If the rejection was not in error, Applicants offer Examiner Salvatore a telephone interview with Applicants' representative at (202) 295-4747 to discuss this rejection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office Action, Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Adriaensen (PCT/EP98/02980) in view of Daisel (JP 52126465). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection as to the claims above, and submit that these claims are allowable for at least the following reasons.

Applicants rely on MPEP § 2143, which states that:

[t]o establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

It is respectfully submitted that at least the first and third criteria of MPEP § 2143 have not been met in the Office Action.

Lack of Suggestion or Motivation to Modify or Combine the References

Claim 1, the only independent claim of the invention, is primarily rejected based on the publication of Applicants' own prior efforts (both Mr. Adriaensen and Mr. Van DeWalle) advancing the field of reinforced canvas. As the Office Action correctly notes, Applicants previously identified (in the cited PCT application) that wires do not adhere well to a thermoplastic matrix material. Thus, Applicants previously directed their efforts towards utilizing cords, which, as they noted in the PCT application, have a higher adherence to thermoplastic matrix materials. That is, the primary reference teaches a suitable configuration for metal members that does not require an additional feature such as a primer that enhances adhesion of a thermoplastic matrix material to the metal. Thus, the cited PCT reference teaches away from the present invention because it identifies a problem and directs the skilled artisan to the use of cords to alleviate the problem.

Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art, relying on the cited PCT application, would not look to modify the PCT application, but would simply follow the teachings of the PCT application and utilize metal cords. Such a modification to the teachings of the PCT application would only be undertaken by an innovator; a person who, when faced with a problem, ignores the solution to a problem placed directly in front of him or her (i.e., the use of cords) and instead seeks an alternative solution previously untested.

Still further, even if someone of ordinary skill in canvas reinforcement decided to completely ignore the specific teachings as to the remedy to the identified problem and

instead find a new solution, there is no evidence that such an artisan in 1999/2000 would look to techniques (in Daisel) involved in the construction of submerged fishing wire.

"[C]ommon sense" must be applied in deciding in which fields a person of ordinary skill would reasonably be expected to look. *Oetiker*, 24 U.S.P.Q.2d at 1446. In *Oetiker*, the Court found that "[i]t has not been shown that a person of ordinary skill, seeking to solve a problem of fastening a hose clamp, would reasonably be expected or motivated to look to fasteners for garments." *Id.* In a similar fashion, a person of ordinary skill in the canvas arts would not reasonably look to the fishing line field.

\* \* \* \* \*

In the present case, Applicants have discovered, based on their continuing efforts to advance the field, that without the application of a primer layer to the metal members, the thermoplastic material disposed around the metal members flows away during welding of the strip to the canvas, sometimes resulting in a metal member that is no longer surrounded by the thermoplastic material after welding, increasing the susceptibility of the metal to corrosion. (See specification, page 3, first paragraph.) This problem is simply not identified in the prior art.

#### Claim 16

Claim 16 stands rejected based on the combination of the above cited references against claim 1, and Carey II (USP 5,489,490), which is relied on in the Office Action to teach a metal member coated with a zinc layer or with a zinc alloy layer.

The Office Action appears to rely on the alleged ease by which the references can be combined, contrary to the procedures stipulated in the MPEP. The MPEP specifically states that the "mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination." (MPEP § 2143.01, subsection 3, first sentence, citations omitted.)

Also, the Office Action appears to suggest that there is a need to make fabric canvass reinforcements which are highly resistant to corrosion by coating a metal layer with zinc or a zinc alloy. However, there is nothing in any of the cited references that teaches or suggests such a need.

The Cited References Do Not Suggest All Claim Recitations

Even if the first requirement of MPEP § 2143 was satisfied in the Office Action (which it is not, as explained above), the cited references still do not meet the third requirement, which is that "the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations."

As a preliminary matter, claims 7-13, 15, 16 and 18 were rejected on the grounds that it "has been held that the functional 'whereby' statement does not define any structure and accordingly cannot serve to patently distinguish. *In re Mason*, 114 USPQ 127, 44 CCPA 37 (1957)." Applicants respectfully submit that the PTO is misconstruing the claims of the present invention as well as the current status of the law.

First, Applicants note that the language following the term "whereby" is not functional language, as opposed to the language of the claims of *In re Mason*. For example, the recitation that "said metal member is a steel wire with a carbon content of at least 0.40%" of claim 13 is not functional language; it is structural language. Just because language of a claim follows the term "whereby" does not mean that the language is functional. Still further, *In re Mason* is completely silent in regard to even a hint that the language following the term "whereby" automatically means that the language should be ignored in determining patentability. The cited case simply does not stand for the position presented in the Office Action, and thus the recitations following the term "whereby" should have been considered in preparing the Office Action.

Second, even if the language was indeed functional as proffered in the Office Action, the only case that has ever cited *In re Mason* (to the best of Applicants' knowledge) states that: "the idea that functional language ipso facto cannot precisely define novelty in structure

was laid to rest in *In re Swinehart*, 439 F.2d 210, 58 C.C.P.A. 1027, 169 U.S.P.Q. 226 (1971). *Plastic Container Corp., vs. Continental Plastics of Oklahoma*, 607 F.2d 885, 907 (Fed. Cir. 1979). Thus, the language following the phrase "whereby" should have been considered for yet another reason.

Still, in the interest of advancing prosecution, Applicants have made the above non-limiting amendments to the claims to change the term "whereby" to "wherein." Thus, the language following the term "wherein" should be considered in determining the patentability of the present invention, and, as will now be discussed, serves to differentiate the present invention from the prior art.

#### Claims 4 and 6

Claim 4 recites that the "primer layer comprises a hot melt," while claim 6 recites that the "primer layer comprises a bifunctional silane compound." Applicants respectfully submit that Daisel does not teach or suggest either of these elements. While Daisel does teach a primer, the reference does not teach a primer comprising a hot melt or a bifunctional silane compound. Indeed, Daisel teaches away from this element, as the primer of Daisel "may be PVC, epoxy-phenol, polybutadiene dissolved in organic solvent." (Daisel abstract.) The primer of Daisel, after application, is passed through a heater to cure the primer. Adriaensen, as admitted in the Office Action, does not teach a primer, and thus cannot remedy the deficiencies of Daisel.

#### Claim 12

Claim 12 recites that the "metal member is a wire with a rounded I-profile." Applicants respectfully submit that neither of the cited references teach or suggest this element, and thus claim 12 is allowable for at least this reason.

#### Claim 13

Claim 13 recites that the "metal member is a steel wire with a carbon content of at least 0.40%." (Emphasis added.) The Office Action states that Adriaensen teaches that suitable "metal materials include steel, copper or a low carbon steel wire with a carbon content below .4% (Page 5, 6-15)." (Office Action, page 3, lines 1-2, emphasis added.)



Thus, Adriaensen fails to teach this element, and in fact teaches away from claim 13. Claim 13 is allowable for at least this reason.

\* \* \* \* \*

In sum, even if the first requirement of MPEP § 2143 is satisfied (which it is not), the third requirement of MPEP § 2143 is not satisfied in the Office Action, at least in regard to at the above claims, since the cited references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every element of these claims.

Any Next Office Action Should Be A Non-final Office Action

Applicants respectfully submit that since claims 7-13, 15, 16 and 18 were not properly examined based on a misapplication of the law, any next office action should be a non-final office action, as Applicants' amendments to the claims to remove the term "whereby" do not constitute an amendment that changes the scope of the claims or otherwise requires a new art search, for the reasons discussed above.

Conclusion

Applicants believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Examiner Salvatore is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date Sept 23 2003

By



Martin J. Cosenza  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 48,892

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